

Murphy-Lee 502(B) Resolution on Saudi Arabia Human Rights

Background on 502(B)

Section 502(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act allows Congress to vote to request information on a particular country's human rights practices.

Step 1: Upon introduction of this resolution, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has ten days to put the resolution before the Committee for consideration. After ten days, the bill sponsors can force a floor vote on the motion to discharge from committee. There is a 50-vote threshold for passage.

Following a successful vote by either chamber of Congress, the administration must submit the report within 30 days, or all security assistance to the country in question automatically stops.

Step 2: After the report is received, Section 502(B) further stipulates that Congress may at any time thereafter adopt a joint resolution terminating, restricting, or continuing security assistance for such country.

The vote to terminate or restrict security assistance is also privileged with a 50-vote threshold, but as a joint resolution it must pass both Houses of Congress and be signed by the President.

Murphy-Lee Resolution Summary

This resolution is drafted to request a report on Saudi Arabia's human rights practices pursuant to Section 502(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act.

Information required by the report includes credible information concerning Saudi Arabia's domestic human rights violations and violations related to their involvement in the armed conflict in Yemen.

As prescribed by Section 502(B), the resolution also requires a description of steps the U.S. government has taken to address human rights violations and assess whether circumstances exist that necessitate a continuation of security assistance.